TASK FORCE SANTA FE
TRAILBLAZER
May 15, 2002 FOR THE SOLDIERS OF THE 35th INFANTRY DIVISION
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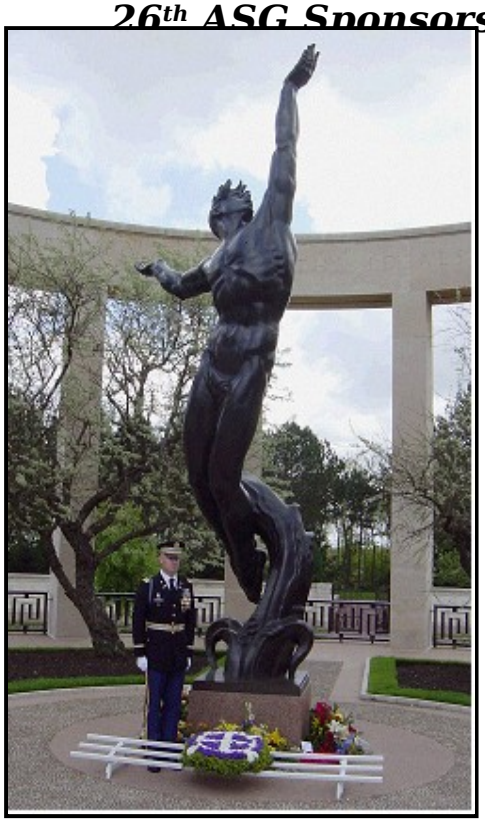
THE 'KEYS' TO USAREU

GERMERSHEIM, Germany. The pre-deployment site survey team from the 55th Brigade, 28th ID (M) arrived here May 5th to plan the relief in place for Task Force Keystone. "This begins the process of bringing Pennsylvania Guardsmen to Europe and taking over the force protection mission from Task Force Santa Fe," Major Mike Haerr, TFSF Operations Officer, said. The survey team, led by Brigadier General Wesley Craig, Asst. Division Commander, Support, 28th ID also included representatives from National Guard Bureau, Forces Command, and the 87th Training Support Brigade. Upon arrival to Germany, the survey team conducted reconnaissance of force protection sites in USAREUR, received detailed briefings from Task Force Santa Fe leadership on lessons learned, and began developing plans to assume the mission. Task Force Keystone will begin arriving in theatre in July. The commander of Task Force Keystone is COL John Gronski. He was extremely impressed with the level of detailed planning by Task Force Santa Fe preparing for Keystone's site survey team. "Your (Task Force Santa Fe) work to make this recon a success is obvious and impressive. We now have a clear understanding of the road ahead. We will be ready to do this mission, " stated Gronski. On May 9th, the results of the site survey and mission analysis of both Task Force Santa Fe

Task Force Keystone Site Survey Team

Task Force Santa Fe Officers Storm Normandy

26th ASG Sponsors WWII Staff Ride



CPT Kevin Emerick conducts wreath laying Ceremony.

NORMANDY, France. Task Force Santa Fe Officers participated in a WWII Staff Ride, conducted by REEP Inc. Participants visited the Normandy beaches to examine first hand the landings of D-Day. In addition, the 35th IN Division area of operation was explored with regard to it's tactical significance in this battle. One of the highlights of the staff ride was the wreath laying ceremony performed at the US Battlefield Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach.

BRAVO COMPANY 1-149 LEADS THE WAY

SGT Shannon Collins receives the Golden Schutzenschnur Award.

SGT William Botkins and SSG Anthony Day receiving 80th ASG Coins from COL Quinn

Schutzenschnur

Europe has offered the deployed soldiers of Bravo Company 1/149th Infantry (M) many opportunities to broaden their knowledge of foreign countries and their militaries. Perhaps one of the most unique ways BravoCompany has been able to accomplish this is through the German marksmanship course open to foreign militaries, the Schutsenschnur. Two Bravo Company soldiers have already qualified with the German version of the M-16 Rifle and 9MM Pistol. These awards are authorized to be worn on the Class A Uniform. SGT Shannon Collins receives the Golden award, SGT Russell Todd received the Silver award and PFC David Warmington of HHC 80th ASG received the Bronze award.

Stop Loss of a Different Sort

Congratulations go out to SGT William Botkins and SSG Anthony Day of Bravo 1-149 IN (M) for receiving 80th ASG coins from COL Quinn for stopping a possible theft at a local business near the Lens Housing Area.

United States Postal Service Announces Rate Hike Effective 30 June 2002

Letters to home are going to be a little more expensive, and that's not all. Postage stamps will bump up from 35 cents to 37 cents and insurance rates will increase approximately 20 cents per increment. Priority mail and other mail rates will vary by zone. Package services (Parcel Post) will experience the highest overall rate increase and potentially affect most of Task Force Santa Fe's soldiers. Packages within the 108 total inches (smallest circumference + length) and weighing less than 35 lbs. will range from $3 to $11 if they are machineable and from $4 to$12 if they are not. Anything weighing over 35 lbs. will be charged non-machineable rates regardless of dimension. Local postal authorities recommend that large items, such as bicycles,

Task Force Sports:

* HHC 1-149 softball team, alias the "Kentucky Aces," finished third out of 17 teams this past weekend at the Pioneer Pre-Season Tournament in Hanau, Germany. Losing in the semifinal game to company C5/7 ADA. In the bottom of the sixth inning the Ace bats fell silent and the 5/7 bats lit up the scoreboard with 6 runs, putting them in the lead. With time running out the Aces stepped up in the 7th, but were unable to convert on a run, shattering the hopes of tournament championship. SFC Larry "Coach" Harris, the unofficial coach of the Aces, had this to say about the team. "We played hard, we played well, we just came up short in the final innings and couldn't get the ball down. Forced errors killed us, but we are looking forward to a good season." - Story by SPC Hyatt

* TF Santa Fe Trailblazers earned their first win in a close game against the Honor Guard of Heidelburg on May 8th. Final score 10-9.

"TRAILBLAZER" Needs Soldier Stories and Pictures - PASS THE WORD!-

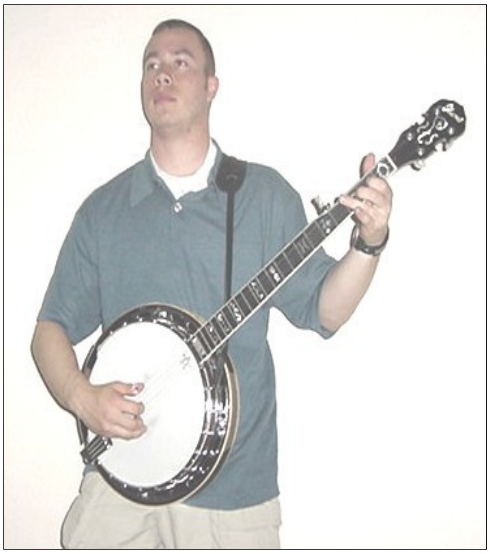
The "Trailblazer" is currently looking for soldiers who will submit pictures and articles for future *'Trailblazer'* issues. There is a lot happening out there, and we want to get the word out.

Send your stories, photos, and ideas to the *Trailblazer* editor, SFC Aangi Mueller at tfbdes1opsnco@26asg.heidelberg.army.mil call DSN 378-3243 or channel ideas and photos through your Battalion S1.

Soldiers Sound Off! Editors Question: What food do you crave that you can only get back home?

(To get your answer printed – e-mail your Name, Rank, Unit and Answer at a minimum to the editor, [illegible] enough to read the nametag on the uniform.)

DUTY AND FUN AT LOCAL VOLKSMARCHES



SPC Johnathan Jelley plays some down home Kentucky Blue Grass

CHEVRIES, Belgium. ANNUAL VOLKSMARCH 2002.
Regular traffic through gate #1 on Chevries Airbase was interrupted by a procession of vintage WWII United States tactical vehicles arriving for the annual Volksmarch. Although an unusual sight compared to the every day traffic on the air base, the display vehicles were met by a very usual reception. The vehicle search teams of Bravo Company 1/149th IN (M), from Kentucky, made quick work of the long line of vehicles allowing them to move on. Additional infantry soldiers were assigned to the display area to check bags and perform other security measures as part of a "base-wide" security increase to ensure safety as large numbers of Belgian Nationals entered the post. Bravo Company employed 100% of available soldiers to man the regular posts and perform the additional security measures for the air base.
Despite the increased workload, the soldiers of Bravo 1/149th still contributed to the event. Six of the units soldiers walked the longest of three courses mapped out on the airbase (20k). "It was like a trip down memory lane", said 1SG Hughes. Other soldiers helped in the Community Activity Center with food preparation for the over 900 registered walkers and others who were there for the exhibits and music. SPC Johnathan Jelley provided the most authentic American music with his performance of Kentucky Blue Grass banjo.

Task Force Santa Fe Headquarters Tackles Speyer Volksmarch

Soldiers from Task Force Santa Fe Headquarters tried the local version of PT at the annual Speyer Volksmarch on May 1st, despite a little inclement weather. You know the saying, "If it ain't raining..."

VOLKSMARCH INFORMATION:
Volksmarching is one of the more popular and well-attended sporting events in Germany. Volksmarching provides an opportunity to participate in a noncompetitive, non-political, untimed sporting event where everyone who completes the prescribed walking course is a winner.
To find additional information about volksmarching, check the Thursday issue of "Stars and Stripes" or go to www.ava.org. This site has information about the sport in the United States as well as links to volksmarching throughout Europe.

- Information MSG Charles

Pictured above are soldiers from Task Force Santa Fe. From Left to Right: SFC Dennis Brannon, SGT Mark Sadler, SGT Wes Barlow, and SGT James Cline

The *TRAILBLAZER* is published by soldiers, for the soldiers of
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